Child labour and protection of children's rights

182. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a group of 150 children participating in the third National Bal Mitra Mahapanchayata at Viratnagar in Rajasthan have demanded an end to child labour and protection of their rights to get education and equal opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action Government propose to take to address these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY). (a) Government is not aware of such Bal Mitra Mahapanchayata.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The problem of child labour requires to be dealt through sustained efforts and the Government is committed to the goal of elimination of child labour in all its forms. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour beginning with the children working in the hazardous occupations and processes. The action plan adopted by the Government to eliminate child labour comprises of legislative measures, general development programmes for benefiting children and **a** project based action plan in areas of high concentration of child labour. Under the NCLP Scheme, the children are withdrawn from work and put into special schools. They are provided basic education, vocational training, mid-day meal and health check up in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system. As of now, the scheme is being implemented in 250 districts.

Balika Samridhi Yojana

183. SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been reports that Government are not releasing requisite funds to the State Governments under the Balika Samridhi Yojana;